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Photos wouldn't help Soviets, ex-CIA man says

By Karen E. Warmkessel

A former Central Intelligence Agency official who helped to develop the KH-11 spy satellite testified yesterday that the secret satellite photos that Samuel L. Morison gave to a British military journal would be of no value to the Soviet Union.

"In my opinion, the disclosure of these three photos would cause no damage or injury to the United States," Roland S. Inlow, formerly the head of an inter-agency committee that coordinates the development and use of satellite photography, told the jury at Mr. Morison's espionage trial in federal court here.

Mr. Inlow said he did not believe the photos would reveal anything new about the satellite's technical capabilities and operating status or contained information that the Soviets did not already have.

He said he based his conclusion, in part, on the fact that the Russians have had the design manual for the KH-11 since 1978. The photos - of a Soviet aircraft carrier being built at a Black Sea shipyard - were published by *Jane's Defence Weekly* in August of last year.

Mr. Inlow conceded under cross-examination that the photos might provide other nations that do not have the manual with some information about the system, but insisted they still do not represent a possible threat to national security.

Mr. Inlow, who retired from the CIA in 1979, was the first of seven witnesses called yesterday by the defense on the fifth day of Mr. Morison's trial. His testimony echoed that of several other defense witnesses, but was at odds with that of a top CIA official, who testified on behalf of the prosecution that the photos would be very valuable to the Soviets.

Mr. Morison, a 40-year-old former analyst for the Naval Intelligence Support Center (NISC) in Suitland, is charged with giving *Jane's* the secret photos, unauthorized possession of two excerpts from secret intelligence summaries dealing with a series of explosions at a Soviet armaments depot, and theft of the classified materials.

Prosecutors contend that the release of the photos and information from the excerpts could have provided foreign governments with valuable information about U.S. intelligence-gathering, in particular the

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KH-11 satellite.

The defense is attempting to show that the information about the satellite, the aircraft carrier under construction and the explosions at the armaments depot were a matter of public record before Mr. Morison turned over the photos and information about the explosions to *Jane's*.

Yesterday, defense lawyers sought to call two reporters, Bill Lynch, of CBS News, and Richard C. Gross, of United Press International, to testify about stories they did concerning the May 1984 explosions at the Severomorsk missile storage facility.

But Judge Joseph H. Young ruled that they could not testify after prosecutors objected that they could not properly cross-examine the reporters if they did not reveal the identity of unnamed government sources mentioned in the articles. Both reporters said they would not identify their sources.

Their stories, however, were included in a package of about 30 articles concerning the explosions and about 60 articles dealing with the KH-11 satellite that were introduced as evidence yesterday by defense lawyers.

The photos in question appeared in the Aug. 11 issue of *Jane's*. *Jane's* also published an article on the Severomorsk explosions July 14. Prosecutors claim the article was based on information Mr. Morison had gleaned from the intelligence summaries.

It is not clear whether Mr. Morison will take the witness stand in his own defense. Mark Lynch, a defense lawyer, said last night that no decision had been made.

The case is scheduled to conclude today, but it is unlikely to go to the jury until tomorrow.